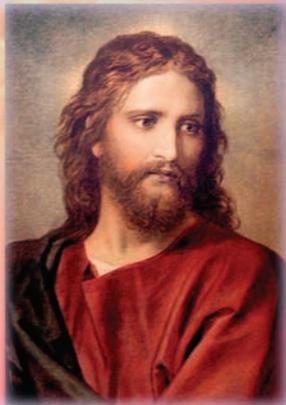


Second Sunday of Lent

March 1, 2026

The Roman  
*Catholic* Community of  
**SAINT LEO THE GREAT**



*Worship with us!*

*“This is my beloved Son,  
with whom I am well  
pleased;  
listen to him.”*

*MT 17:5*

**MASS SCHEDULE**

**WEEKEND MASSES:**

Saturday, 5:30 p.m.  
Sunday, 7:00, 8:30, 10:00, 11:30 a.m.

**DAILY MASSES:**

Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m.  
Saturday, 8:00 a.m.

Novena Prayers following 9:00 a.m. Mass

Monday – Miraculous Medal

Tuesday – Saint Anthony

Wednesday – Saint Jude

Friday – Sacred Heart

**HOLY DAY MASSES:** See Bulletin

**CONFESSIONS:**

Saturday, 4:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.



50 HURLEY'S LANE  
LINCROFT, NEW JERSEY  
07738-1406

**PARISH CENTER  
OFFICE HOURS**

**MONDAY** through **THURSDAY**  
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

**FRIDAY**

Office is Closed

**SATURDAY**

Office is Closed

**SUNDAY**

Office is Closed

Follow us on **Facebook** - [facebook.com/ChurchofStLeotheGreat](https://facebook.com/ChurchofStLeotheGreat) and **Instagram** - [@churchofsaintleothegreat](https://instagram.com/@churchofsaintleothegreat)

**BULLETIN DEADLINE - THURSDAY AM** (one week prior)

**Parish Statement of Vision & Purpose**  
*With charity, joy and missionary enthusiasm the  
 Roman Catholic Family of Saint Leo the Great, Lincroft,  
 commits to giving ourselves unconditionally in service to the People of God  
 in the Name of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior*

**Pastoral Center**  
 Parish Center 732-747-5466 - Option 1  
 Email [parish@stleothegreat.com](mailto:parish@stleothegreat.com)  
 Website [www.stleothegreat.com](http://www.stleothegreat.com)

**Directory**

**Saint Leo the Great Early Learning Center**  
 732-333-7362  
 Email [elc@stleothegreat.com](mailto:elc@stleothegreat.com)  
 Director Ms. Junell Wells, BA

**Religious Store Ministry**  
 908-770-1989  
 Email [store@stleothegreat.com](mailto:store@stleothegreat.com)

**Pastoral Staff**

<i>Pastor</i>	Reverend John T. Folchetti, D.Min.
<i>Weekend Assistant</i>	Monsignor Cajetan Salemi
<i>Weekend Assistant</i>	Reverend Joseph Tizio, C.Ss.R.
<i>Weekend Assistant</i>	Reverend Anthony Michalik, C.Ss.R.
<i>Deacon</i>	Mr. Edward H. Wilson
<i>Deacon</i>	Mr. Richard Tucker
<i>Deacon</i>	Mr. John Senkewicz
<i>Parish Trustee</i>	Mr. Lawrence Durso
<i>Parish Trustee</i>	Mr. Thomas Gioia
<i>Executive Asst./Office Mgr</i>	Ms. Julie C. Olski
<i>Receptionist</i>	Mrs. Carol Blaney
<i>Friday Receptionist</i>	Mrs. Joan Gittens

**Parish Administration**

<i>Director of Finance</i>	Mr. Robert A. Pellicone
<i>Bookkeeper</i>	Mrs. Sharon Kreft
<i>Bursar</i>	Mrs. Colleen Esposito
<i>Human Resources/Payroll</i>	Mrs. Siobhan Smith

**Pastoral Ministries**

**Saint Leo the Great School**  
 School 732-741-3133  
 Website [www.saintleothegreatschool.com](http://www.saintleothegreatschool.com)

<i>Principal</i>	Ms. Caroline Fitzgerald, MA, MA Ed
<i>Vice Principal</i>	Mrs. Julia Chrobocinski, MA Ed
<i>Vice Principal</i>	Mrs. Maria Waldman, MA
<i>PTA President</i>	Mrs. Stephanie Dotzler

**Office of Parish Faith Formation**  
 Office 732-747-5466 - Option 2  
 Email [FaithFormation@stleothegreat.com](mailto:FaithFormation@stleothegreat.com)

<i>Coordinator, 1-8</i>	Ms. Paula DeStefano
<i>Administrative Assistant</i>	Mrs. Karen Ann Lenahan

**Worship & Liturgical Ministries**

<i>Acolytes, Extraordinary Ministers, Lectors</i>	
<i>Moderator</i>	Deacon Edward Wilson
<i>Sacred Music</i>	Mrs. Diane Testa, Director
<i>Sacristan</i>	Mr. Robert A. Pellicone

**Catholic Youth Ministry**

<i>Director</i>	Mrs. Joan M. Kret
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**Buildings & Grounds**



**Evangelization & Spiritual Formation**

<i>Coordinator of O.C.I.A.</i>	Ms. Paula DeStefano
<i>CLOW</i>	Mrs. Elizabeth Grimaldi
<i>Reflection for Women</i>	Mrs. Patricia Hicks

**Christian Service Ministries**

<i>Social Concerns</i>	Deacon John Senkewicz, Coordinator
<i>Lunch Break/Feed A Friend</i>	Mrs. Eileen Scoles

**Parish Organizations**

<i>Carnival General Manager</i>	
<i>Knights of Columbus</i>	Grand Knight Anthony DiSpirito
<i>Parish Council</i>	Mr. Timothy Andree, Chairperson

**Community Outreach**

<i>AA - 8:30 a.m. Saturday</i>	
<i>Bereavement Ministry</i>	Ms. Paula DeStefano

**Parish Athletic Activities**

<i>Director &amp; Coordinator</i>	Mr. Anthony Biancanello
<i>SLG Athletic Association</i>	Mr. Patrick Bruno

**FOR THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM:**

Parents and Godparents are required to attend a Baptismal Preparation Class prior to the Baptism. Baptisms are celebrated on scheduled Sundays at 1:00 p.m. Please see our website for information.

**FOR THE SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGES**

Please call the Parish Center one year in advance PRIOR to making any other arrangements.

**FOR HOSPITAL & HOME COMMUNION CALLS:**

Call the Parish Center

**FOR SPONSOR CERTIFICATES / LETTERS OF ELIGIBILITY:**

*Please note the following requirements*

Must be: a registered Parishioner, a faithfully practicing Roman Catholic, over the age of 16, if married, must be in a valid Catholic marriage, and have received the Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist, & Confirmation. (cf. Canon Law)

Second Sunday of Lent ~ March 1, 2026



Mass Intentions for the Week

**Saturday, February 28**

5:30 p.m. --Randall Gabrielan, r/b Cathy & John Baldauf  
+Ann Brown, r/b Antonelli Family

**Sunday, March 1**

7:00 a.m. -People of the Parish  
+Peter Dougherty, r/b Sally Copeland  
8:30 a.m. --Reverend M. Quinlan  
+Vincent Caprio, r/b Arthur & Joanne  
10:00 a.m. --Philip Butcher, r/b Doehner Family  
+Helen Alessadro, r/b Paula DeStefano  
11:30 a.m. --Margaret Rogalli, r/b Derek & Amanda Bielitz  
+Richard C. Chianese, r/b Crockett Family

**Monday, March 2**

9:00 a.m. -Souls in Purgatory  
+The Avila Family, r/b Aurea Bandilla

**Tuesday, March 3**

9:00 a.m. --Madeline Cretella, r/b Madeline Normoyle  
+Karen Liza Turner, r/b Turner Family

**Wednesday, March 4**

9:00 a.m. --Richard Calabrese, r/b Torman Family  
+Robert Harris, r/b Elaine Brasco

**Thursday, March 5**

9:00 a.m. --Madeline Cretella, r/b Mondile Family

**Friday, March 6**

9:00 a.m. --Wesley Textores, r/b Textores Family

**Saturday, March 7**

8:00 a.m. - I/O Judy DeStefano, r/b Tony DeStefano  
5:30 p.m. --James Cawley, r/b Mary-Lloyd Potenziani  
+Theresa Cool, r/b Raber Family

**Sunday, March 8**

7:00 a.m. --Josephine & Howard Price, r/b Denise Denk  
+Bruce Bergstrom, r/b Evelyn Carew  
8:30 a.m. -People of the Parish  
+Joseph Carbone, r/b Chiara Lore  
10:00 a.m. --Philip Butcher, r/b Doehner Family  
+John Robert Deus, r/b Incantalupo Family  
11:30 a.m. --Marybeth Kwapniewski, r/b Raviele Family  
+Kathryn Hutchinson, r/b Margaret Lang

**The Sacrament of Penance or Reconciliation is offered every Saturday at 4:30 p.m. in the Church.**

We invite every Catholic during this season of repentance to celebrate the Sacrament of Penance or Reconciliation (*go to Confession*) prior to Easter, as well as on a regular basis. There can be no better way to make progress on our spiritual journey than by returning in humble repentance and love to God, whose forgiveness re-establishes us as His children and restores us to peace with His Church and our neighbors.

*Church ~ Tabernacle Vigil Light*

*Week of March 2nd*



**In Memory of:**

Kathy Doehner

**Requested by:**

The Doehner Family

**Liturgical Assignments - March 7/8**

*Please arrive 15 minutes early.*

*If you are unable to serve at the time scheduled, it is your responsibility to find a substitute. Thank you!*

<b>Mass</b>	<b>5:30 p.m.</b>	<b>7:00 a.m.</b>	<b>8:30 a.m.</b>	<b>10:00 a.m.</b>	<b>11:30 a.m.</b>
<b>Lectors</b>	J. Sidoti	J. Sharkey	T. Kinsella	D. Szostek	J. Krall
<b>Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion</b>	M. Centrone M. Potenziani	M. Sparber	A. Grimm P. Hicks	R. Dogas T. Dogas	M. Lang C. Flamenbaum
<b>Altar Servers</b>	C. Honeycutt D. Campbell I. Russo	A. Gardiner M. Condron	K. Bodnar M. Bodnar <i>O. Komorowski</i>	M. Nolan K. Mannarino	V. Hallisay A. Nesci C. Sams
<b>CLOW</b>			L. Aldridge W. Rahner	P. DeStefano S. Cizin D. Perillo	

WEEK-AT-A-GLANCE

MONDAY, March 2

8:00 a.m. Exposition / Chapel  
9:00 a.m. Mass / Chapel  
10:30 a.m. Centering Prayer / PC



TUESDAY, March 3

8:00 a.m. Exposition / Chapel  
9:00 a.m. Mass / Chapel  
3:00 p.m. Social Concerns Mtg / PC  
4:30 p.m. Rel. Ed. Grd 1-6 / School  
5:45 p.m. Rel. Ed. Grd 7-8 / School  
7:00 p.m. KofC General Mtg / MR



WEDNESDAY, March 4

8:00 a.m. Exposition / Chapel  
9:00 a.m. Mass / Chapel  
9:30 a.m. Mommy & Me / PC  
6:00 p.m. Children's Choir Rehearsal / Church  
7:00 p.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal / Church

THURSDAY, March 5

8:00 a.m. Exposition / Chapel  
9:00 a.m. Mass / Chapel

FRIDAY, March 6

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

8:00 a.m. Exposition / Chapel  
9:00 a.m. Mass / Chapel  
5:30 p.m. Children's Stations of the Cross/Church  
6:00 P.M. Ignite Mtg / PC  
7:30 p.m. Stations of the Cross / Church



SATURDAY, March 7

8:00 a.m. Mass / Chapel  
8:15 a.m. Feed A Friend / Café  
4:30 p.m. Confessions / Church  
5:30 p.m. Mass / Church



SUNDAY, March 8

\*Girl Scout Sunday

Masses: 7:00, \*8:30, \*10:00, 11:30 a.m./ Church  
\* 8:30 a.m. & \*10:00 a.m. CLOW / Church  
\*10:00 a.m. Family Mass

**GIRL SCOUT SUNDAY**  
March 8th



All Girls Scouts are invited to attend the 10:00 a.m. Mass **IN UNIFORM** to receive a special blessing.



Offertory

Thank you for your continued support! You may also donate electronically via our website (click on E-Giving) or using your financial institution's electronic bill pay.



Your Prayers Are Requested

Remember Our Men & Women who are serving in the Military here and overseas. Pray for their safety and for their families.

Remember Our Sick, Home Bound, Hospitalized, especially Residents of Luftman Towers, The Pavilion, Sunrise Assisted Living

Remember Our Deceased

Remember Our Newly Baptized

Remember Our New Parishioners and Their Families



**STATIONS OF THE CROSS**  
Please join us each Friday in Lent for Stations of the Cross in the Church at 7:30 p.m. Families are encouraged to participate.



Join Us For **ADORATION OF THE MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT** Daily in the **CHURCH** during Lent. **Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 8:50 a.m.** Followed by Daily Mass at 9:00 a.m.



# 40 DAYS FOR LIFE™

Planned Parenthood Shrewsbury Center  
69 Newman Springs Rd, Shrewsbury, NJ  
FEBRUARY 18TH—MARCH 29TH

Each year in the Spring and Fall, our community takes part in 40 Days for Life at the Shrewsbury Planned Parenthood. This is a groundbreaking, coordinated international mobilization. We pray that, with God's help, this is the beginning of the end of abortion in our area — and beyond.

**Please Note**, 40 Days For Life/Shrewsbury is a peaceful, prayerful witness. There is no shouting, foul language or graphic signs. As always, stay on the sidewalk or public right of way. Do not go on private property, block the driveway or park in the Planned Parenthood lot.

Sign Up for Vigil Hours at

[www.40daysforlife.com/en/shrewsbury](http://www.40daysforlife.com/en/shrewsbury)

Local Contact: [Monmouth4life@hotmail.com](mailto:Monmouth4life@hotmail.com)

Living the Word This Week  
*How can I make my life a gift  
for others in charity?*

Commit to Lenten practices of  
prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.



**Knights of  
Columbus**

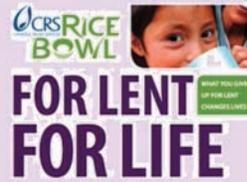
Charity. Unity.  
Fraternity. Patriotism.  
*The four pillars of the  
Knights of Columbus*

## WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A KNIGHT

We are Catholic men who lead, serve, protect and defend. We share a desire to be better husbands, fathers, sons, neighbors and role models and to put charity and community first.

## PUT YOUR FAITH INTO ACTION THIS LENT!

We are men who lead, serve, protect and defend, whether we are giving out Coats for Kids, lending a hand in disaster relief efforts, supporting local pregnancy centers by donating ultrasound machines or providing top-quality financial products. Find out more about what we do.



## FOR LENT FOR LIFE

The **CRS Rice Bowl 25% Initiative** for Lent 2026 is **HERE!**

The annual *Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowl* campaign starts on Ash Wednesday and runs through Lent. It is vital funding for the **international work CRS does on our behalf**. But do you know **Saint Leo's Parish Ministries can benefit from the Rice Bowl, too?** 25% of Saint Leo's rice bowls' total collection can go to **support our Parish Ministries working to alleviate poverty and hunger**. Ministries that include Food Pantries, Saint Vincent de Paul Conferences, and Social Concerns soup kitchens and homeless shelters.

To participate, just use your Rice Bowls at home or make one! Aim to put in at least \$1 a day into the Rice Bowl through the 40 days of Lent—that's \$40!. At the end of Lent, make a check payable to **Church of Saint Leo the Great** and write **Rice Bowl** in the memo area. We will receive 25% of the total collected with the rest going to CRS,

Help raise vital funds for the **international work CRS does on our behalf** and for **Saint Leo's Parish Ministries serving locally**. For more about the work of CRS, please go to [www.crsricebowl.org](http://www.crsricebowl.org).

**LOVE** that  
**Strengthens**

**JOY** that  
**Sustains**

The **2026 Annual Catholic Appeal**  
is Now Underway.

**Saint Leo's Goal: \$86,000**

Pledged to Date: \$6,267 / 33 Donors

**Your Gift Makes a Difference!**

Through the Annual Catholic Appeal, we live out Christ's command to love one another by supporting ministries that bring His compassion to every corner of our Diocese.

Your generosity:

- strengthens families and Parish life,
- forms future clergy and faith leaders,
- guides children and young adults in discipleship,
- provides hope and care to those facing hardship.

Together, we share a love that strengthens and a joy that sustains — transforming lives through the mission we carry out as one Catholic family.

Join us to create a Love that Strengthens and a Joy that Sustains through your pledge or make your gift today at [giveaca.org](http://giveaca.org).

**News Around the Diocese**

**BENEFIT CONCERT:** *Because We Believe* - concert on **March 21st** at 7pm for the Parish of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Lakewood. We are working to rebuild and continue our ministry after last October's devastating fire. This concert promises to be a mesmerizing performance by the renowned vocalist, Cori Scotti, accompanied by the gifted Jessica Kortenhuis with the talents of many others as well. Hopefully you can support our efforts to rebuild. We are very grateful for your support after the terrible 5 alarm fire that took so much from us and your commitment to faith. You can now purchase regular seating tickets for \$20. for this event through Zelle at [parish@olglakewood.org](mailto:parish@olglakewood.org). All VIP tickets have already sold out. All proceeds benefit the Parish of Our Lady of Guadalupe. For More information call 732-363-0139

**CATECHIST FORMATION DAY:** All Catechists are invited to attend on **Saturday, March 14** (9:00 AM–3:00 PM) at St. David the King Parish, Princeton Junction. This year we welcome author, speaker, and professor **Allan Wright**, who will present *"The Power of Sacred Scripture: Being Nourished by the Wisdom of God's Word."* This enriching day will deepen your own faith and provide practical, engaging tools to bring Scripture to life in every ministry setting. Grade-level Catechists, Youth Ministry teams, OCIA teams, Bible Study leaders, and Adult Faith Formation leaders are all encouraged to attend. For more information and registration, visit [dioceseoftrenton.org/catformday-2026](http://dioceseoftrenton.org/catformday-2026)

**CATHOLIC COUNSELING AND COACHING:** Looking for a mental health practice that supports your beliefs? Integrated Hearts Counseling and Consultation offers a full range of therapeutic offerings through the lens of the Catholic vision of the person. Unique coaching offerings also include young adults, pre-engagement, engagement & marriage. Visit [www.ihccnj.com](http://www.ihccnj.com) to flourish in the way that God intends for you.

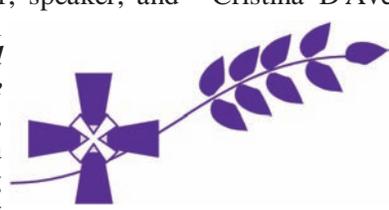
**MARIS STELLA RETREAT & CONFERENCE CENTER:** 7201 Long Beach Blvd., PO Box 3135 Harvey Cedars, NJ 08008 609.494.1152 Silent Directed/Private Retreat, **June 8-14**. Preached Retreat "When People Get in the Way of Loving God" Learning to love in a hostile world, **June 15-21**. Preached Retreat "Encountering Jesus: remembrance and Renewal, **June 22-28**. For details and registration visit [www.marisstella.org](http://www.marisstella.org). Space is limited.

**SPRING SEMINAR SERIES:** Living & Dying Well: Facing the Pastoral & Practical Challenges at Times of Severe Illness and End of Life. Saturday mornings,

March 28, April 18, May 17. Full Information at [www.dioceseoftrenton.org/respect-life-ministry](http://www.dioceseoftrenton.org/respect-life-ministry)

**THE FIRST HYMN:** This documentary is a reverent, cinematic exploration of the earliest known Christian hymn. Archaeologists uncovered words sung by believers nearly 1,800 years ago that show a faith that was communal, costly, and deeply embodied. The film traces how worship didn't emerge from platforms or performance but from a people learning to remember who they were together. released in theatres nationwide for two nights only – **March 24 & 26**. **Tickets are now on sale.** Get tickets now and create a space to slow down, remember, and experience worship together in a new way. From worship... to the big screen... and back into the life of the Church. purchase tickets, go to [fathomentertainment.com/releases/the-first-hymn/](http://fathomentertainment.com/releases/the-first-hymn/)

**VIRTUAL GROUP FOR CATHOLIC PARENTS:** The Diocese of Metuchen, Office of Family Life is sponsoring a virtual group for parents led by Director, Cristina D'Averso-Collins. The group will meet via Zoom on 2 Friday evenings a month at 6:30 p.m. Meetings will include watching a brief video on a topic particular to Catholic parenting and discussing as a group. Topics will include desiring holiness for your child, child temperaments, family culture, strong marriage, and being an effective witness, among others. The group is intended for those with children in the home and new parents are particularly welcome! If interested, please contact Cristina at [cdaverso@diometuchen.org](mailto:cdaverso@diometuchen.org).



**LENTEN TABLE GRACE**

**LEADER:** Jesus said to the crowds: "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink. Your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given you besides."

**ALL RESPOND:** We thank you, O Lord, who gives us this food to eat. We pray that you may also provide food for those who are hungry and gather all of us together at the table of your heavenly kingdom.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Book of Blessings* by Prepared by International Commission on English in the Liturgy *A Joint Commission of Catholic Bishops' Conferences*, The Liturgical Press, Collegeville, Minnesota, 1989



**Centering Prayer**  
with Lectio Divina

**This Lent,  
join us in  
Prayer!**

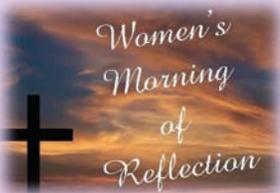
**Monday Mornings**  
10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.  
Promptness is required!

**Parish Center Chapel**  
*Be Still and KNOW that I am God!*

Come and spend time with GOD in solitude -  
leaving outside your plans for tomorrow,  
your memories of yesterday as you live fully and  
completely in the wonder of His present moment!

Facilitator ~ Barbara Woodzell

Let us know you are coming  
[stleothegreat.com/centering-prayer](http://stleothegreat.com/centering-prayer)



*Women's  
Morning  
of  
Reflection*

Come, give yourself  
90 minutes this Lent with  
other women of the Parish  
as we learn to look within  
ourselves, share our  
experiences, and  
encourage each other to

grow into the women that  
God meant us to become.

Next Meeting is Thursday, March 19th

9:45 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.

Meeting Room in the  
Lower Level of the Parish Center

Let us know you will be coming  
[stleothegreat.com/womens-morning-of-reflection](http://stleothegreat.com/womens-morning-of-reflection)

**PARISH MONTHLY NOVENA**

A Novena is a prayer in which we ask God for a  
specific intention. It is repeated for nine days.

Please join us as we pray daily for each other's  
intentions. Each month we will post a new  
Novena Prayer and a place for you to include your  
intentions.

This **March**, we will pray our Novena  
to **Saint Joseph**, Patron of the  
Universal Church, fathers, workers,  
carpenters and a happy death. Pray for  
our intentions and for the unemployed  
and underemployed of our Parish Family.

Go to [stleothegreat.com/parish-novena](http://stleothegreat.com/parish-novena)



Joan  
Kret,  
Youth  
Minister

**IGNITE** Youth Group



**THE THREE PILLARS OF LENT**  
**Prayer**  
**Fasting**  
**Almsgiving.**

**LENTEN SHARING TREE**

Saint Leo's Social Concerns Committee  
uses **The Butterfly**  
for our Lenten Project as a symbol of  
**Hope in the Resurrection.**

**In the spirit of fasting and alms giving,**  
we ask that you take a **Butterfly**  
**Envelope** from the Sharing Tree and  
return it with your donation.

**We will use these funds to feed those in  
need in our own community this Easter.**

**The Butterfly Envelopes may be  
returned in the collection box, mailed  
or dropped off at the Parish Center.**

**Please return the envelope by**  
**April 5th**

**HIS WORD TODAY**  
by Rev. William J. Reilly

Second Sunday of Lent  
March 1, 2026

“He saved us and called us to a holy life, not according to our works but according to his own design and the grace bestowed on us in Christ Jesus before time began but now made manifest through the appearance of our savior Christ Jesus, who destroyed death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.”



Our Lent is our response to the saving work Jesus performed in our behalf. Jesus died and rose, because of our need and His overpowering love for us. Because of habit, or even indifference, we just acknowledge or presume what happened, rather than think about where we would be at this moment, if God's plan was not carried out. All

this happened because of our need. His saving work continues and with Peter we shout out, 'Lord is good that we are here.'

'Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on me a sinner.'

*Meray*

**PRO-LIFE CORNER +**

In light of the ongoing crisis in Haiti - marked by widespread violence, political instability and life threatening conditions - I join my brother U.S. Bishops in expressing grave concern for Haitian families in the United States who faced the loss of "Temporary Protected Status (TPS)" on Feb 3. Such decisions must always uphold human dignity, protect families and safeguard the vulnerable.

~Bishop David M. O'Connell, C.M.

# Lent



## Daily Readings for the Week

**Sunday:** Gn 12:1-4a; 2 Tm 1:8b-10; Mt 17:1-9

**Monday:** Dn 9:4b-10; Lk 6:36-38

**Tuesday:** Is 1:10, 16-20; Mt 23:1-12

**Wednesday:** Jer 18:18-20; Mt 20:17-28

**Thursday:** Jer 17:5-10; Lk 16:19-31

**First Friday:** Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a;  
Mt 21:33-43, 45-46

**Saturday:** Mi 7:14-15, 18-20; Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

## A VOCATION VIEW . . .



The Lord called Abram to go forth to a new land and begin a new nation. There's no telling what we can become by responding to the Lord's invitation to us.

### THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT March 8, 2026

**First Reading: Exodus 17:3-7**

This story from Exodus reveals that the Israelites, after their escape from Egypt, cast all blame for their sufferings on Moses. In this instance, they were dying of thirst. When Moses appealed to the Lord, the Lord directed Moses to strike a rock and water would gush forth.

**Second Reading: Romans 5:1-2, 5-8**

Paul reminds the Romans that because Christ died for all people, they are acceptable in God's sight.

**Gospel: John 4:5-42**

Jesus converses with the Samaritan woman at Jacob's Well. When Jesus indicates that whoever drinks from the water He gives will never be thirsty again, the woman immediately answers, "Give me this water, sir...". Jesus then reveals that she has had five husbands and tells her that He is the Messiah. The woman believes Jesus and proclaims this news to all the townspeople, who believe her and come to see Jesus.

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## FASTING AND FEASTING

*Lent is more than a time of fasting; it can also be a joyous season of feasting.*

*Lent is a time to fast from certain things, and to feast on others.*

- Fast from judging others; feast on the Christ dwelling in them.
- Fast from emphasis on differences; feast on the unity of life.
- Fast from apparent darkness; feast on the reality of light.
- Fast from thoughts of illness; feast on the healing power of God.
- Fast from words that pollute; feast on phrases that purify.
- Fast from discontent; feast on gratitude.
- Fast from anger; feast on patience.
- Fast from pessimism; feast on optimism.
- Fast from worry; feast on divine order.
- Fast from complaining; feast on appreciation.
- Fast from negatives; feast on affirmatives.
- Fast from unrelenting pressures; feast on unceasing prayer.
- Fast from hostility; feast on non-resistance.
- Fast from bitterness; feast on forgiveness.
- Fast from self-concern; feast on compassion for others.
- Fast from personal anxiety; feast on eternal truth.
- Fast from discouragements; feast on hope.
- Fast from facts that depress; feast on verities that uplift.
- Fast from lethargy; feast on enthusiasm.
- Fast from thoughts that weaken; feast on promises that inspire.
- Fast from shadows of sorrow; feast on the sunlight of serenity.
- Fast from idle gossip; feast on purposeful silence.
- Fast from problems that overwhelm; feast on prayer that under girds.

**LENT**  
Pray + Fast + Give



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Visit [www.FHOP.org](http://www.FHOP.org) All programs will be offered online and in-person unless otherwise indicated.

**PERSONAL RETREAT DAY- IN PERSON ONLY:** Wednesday, March 11, 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM. Come to for silence, personal prayer and optional spiritual direction. The day begins and ends with a brief prayer together. Please bring a bag lunch. Donation: \$10; \$40 with spiritual direction.

**THE SCREWTAPE LETTERS:** Thursday, March 12, 9:30 AM – 1:00 PM. C.S. Lewis gifts us with a very cleverly written treatment of discernment of spirits. His insightfulness and wit are remarkable. We will use the book *The Screwtape Letters* by C.S. Letters to guide our discussion. Come and enjoy this classic! Donation: \$25, includes lunch. Zoom \$20.

**THE IMITATION OF CHRIST THE BEATITUDES EDITION:** Tuesday, March 17, 9:30 AM – 1:00 PM. Let's enjoy the wisdom of this timeless classic by Thomas A Kempis translated for us in this special version, *The Imitation of Christ – The Beatitudes Edition*. Listen as Jesus speaks right to you as a friend with loving advice. Time will also be given to contemplative prayer. Donation: \$25, includes lunch; Zoom \$20.

**IGNATIAN CONTEMPLATION PLACE YOURSELF IN THE SCENE:** Wednesday, March 18, 9:30 AM – 1:00 PM. Sometimes a morning of prayer is just what you need to keep going in your life! Ignatian contemplation may be a new way to pray for you. The gospel story is about YOU! Intimacy with Jesus follows. Healing and meaning in your life follow also. Wonderful for Lent. Donation: \$25, includes lunch. Zoom: \$20

**ECHOES OF "YES" A RETREAT INSPIRED BY THE ANNUNCIATION:** Wednesday, March 25, 9:30 AM – 1:00 PM. Embrace God's invitation with Mary's

courage by stepping away from the noise of your life and enter a sacred space of reflection, hope, and trust. This retreat invites you to accompany Mary at the moment of the Annunciation - where her openness to God's will changed everything. Discover how saying "yes" can transform your own life, deepen your faith, and open your heart to new possibilities. Through prayer, quiet, and community, experience the echo of Mary's courageous response and prepare to encounter God's invitation anew. Led by JoLynn Krempecki. Donation: \$25, includes lunch. Zoom: \$20

**PRAYER OF ABANDONMENT: THE BEAUTY OF SURRENDER:** Friday, March 27, 9:30 AM – 1:00 PM. We need to abandon ourselves to God more than ever these days. God has repeatedly proven himself trustworthy. This Lenten retreat invites us, like Jesus, to grow in trust as we lay down our burdens & abandon ourselves and our future to the loving Providence of God. We will use Charles De Foucauld's *Prayer of Abandonment* to guide our prayer. Lent is coming to a close, so please spend this special time with Jesus today. Donation: \$30, includes materials and lunch. Zoom, \$20

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### Please Support Our Advertisers

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***A Parishioner is . . . one who belongs to the Parish Family. As such, she/he is formally registered with us and is committed to the Parish through participation in the life of the Parish Community - spiritually, socially and financially. If you have not formally registered as a Parishioner, please do so at the Parish Center Office.***

***Please note - we will not be able to issue Sponsor Certificates or Letters of Eligibility for Baptisms or Confirmation if you are not a registered participating member of the Parish for at least six months.***

**NOTE: FEDERAL PRIVACY REGULATION - HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability & Accountability) prohibits all hospitals from informing churches of a patient's presence unless the patient gives permission for the hospital to do so. If you're admitted to a hospital and would like a visit from us, please notify the hospital or call the Parish Office**

### Remember Your Parish in Your Estate Planning

Bequests are ideal for remembering those who will come to Saint Leo the Great Church after us - in our Catholic Christian Mission. Or, you may wish to name Saint Leo's as a beneficiary of an insurance policy or other financial instrument. The designation would be: Church of Saint Leo the Great, 50 Hurley's Lane, Lincroft, NJ 07738. If in doubt, please call us and we will be happy to work with your attorney or financial advisor. **Thank you for your consideration.**



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